



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

John A. Bardis  
Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20201

MEMORANDUM

TO: OpDiv and StaffDiv Heads

FROM: John A. Bardis, Assistant Secretary for Administration

DATE: August 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Announcing HHS's "A by May" Initiative - Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Scorecard

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HHS spends approximately \$7 billion annually on IT with another \$7 billion in grants supporting IT, for a total of \$14 billion. As a department, we must ensure effective and efficient investment and deployment of technology to facilitate mission critical outcomes and meet the needs of the citizens we serve.

In December 2014, Congress passed FITARA to strengthen the governance, acquisition and operations of federal information technology. This legislation outlined several IT performance standards including: budget formulation and execution; acquisition and inventory management; data center optimization, transparency and risk management and organizational alignment and support. Each May and December, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOCR) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) scores how each department is performing. Unfortunately HHS's May 2017 rating was D- on a traditional (A – F) grading scale.

To improve our score, HHS established an integrated project team of finance, budget, acquisition and IT professionals to track our progress. The team is launching an HHS FITARA scorecard improvement plan with the objective to be the best in government. This call to action is entitled **"A by May"** and is designed to address the fundamental principles of FITARA (governance, acquisition and operations) while creating a cultural, strategic and tactical framework to ensure IT investments are managed as integral components of our mission-based programs.

I have asked HHS's Chief Information Officer, Beth Anne Killoran, to work with your team over the next several months to improve our FITARA grade by focusing on the following: evolving HHS's culture of risk awareness and transparency; deepening our integration of budget, acquisition and IT business processes; examining opportunities to streamline the data center infrastructure and leveraging enterprise strategies to achieve IT savings. They have developed several reports that will track our progress and provide you visibility where we need to provide direct support.

**"A-by-May"** is a bold statement for HHS and will challenge us to achieve something some may think is un-achievable, but together we can and will deliver. This is what I believe the American people want from us and who better to deliver than HHS. We will periodically schedule briefings for you on our progress and would request your active support of this initiative.